

## << PREVIOUS SECTION

### BLM Surface Parcel Size

**Indicator:** Average size of contiguous blocks of BLM-administered surface by subbasin. A subbasin (also referred to as a cataloging unit or an 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC)) is an intermediate-sized drainage area within the widely accepted United States Geological Survey hierarchical system of hydrologic units. Average block size is expressed as sections or townships and multiples thereof. One section equals 640 acres and one township contains 36 sections.

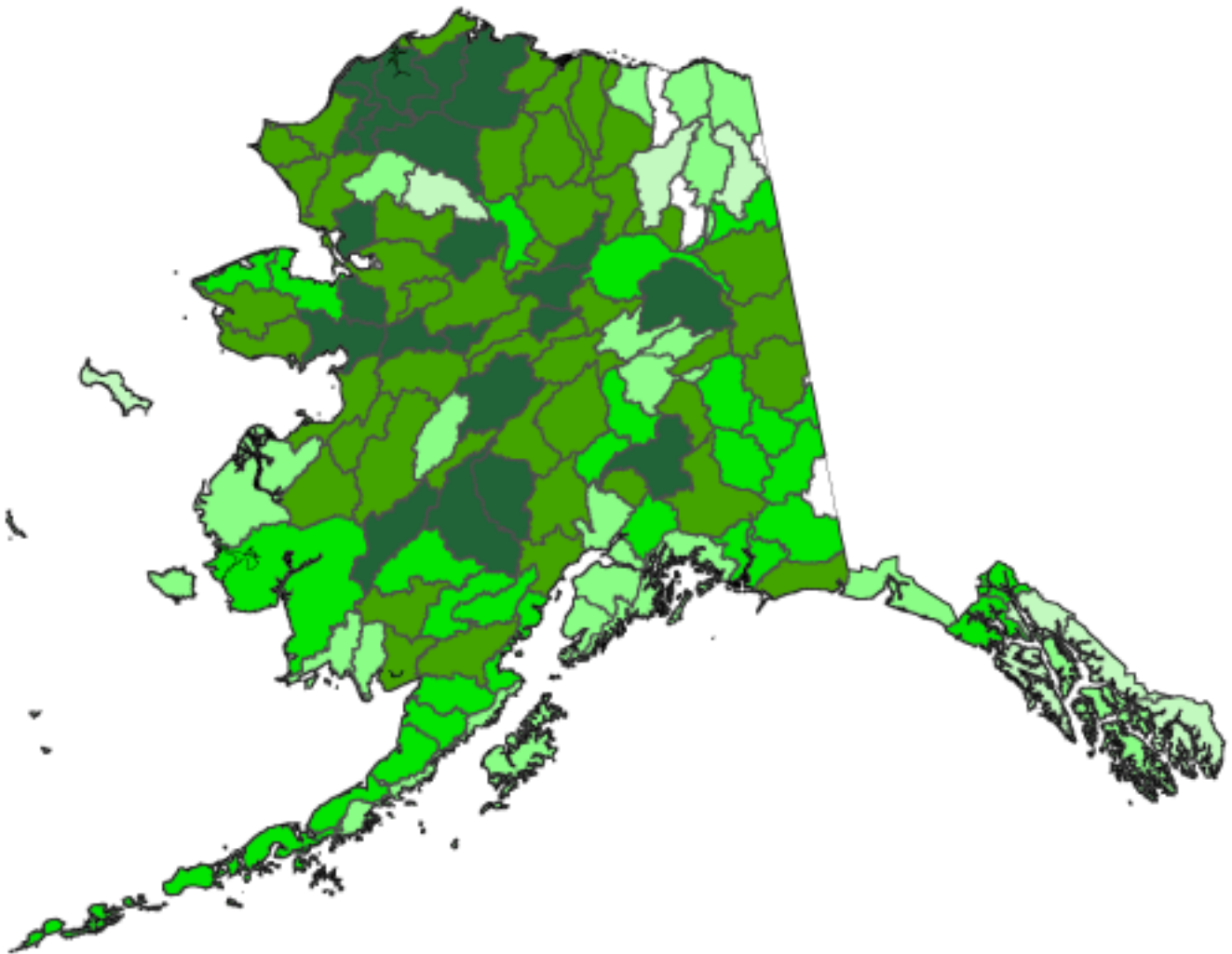
**Key Findings:** While there is certainly a positive correlation between the amount of BLM land and the average parcel size, careful comparison of this map with the “BLM Lands within Subbasins” map reveals differences as well. Subbasins with the highest amount of BLM land do not necessarily show the largest average parcel size. A subbasin in western Colorado and another in eastern Alaska show less than 40 percent total BLM land with an average parcel size of greater than five townships.

**Limitations:** This map shows contiguous blocks of surface ownership. It does not show potential fragmentation of the surface that may be caused by uses within each block (e.g., roads, fences, etc.)

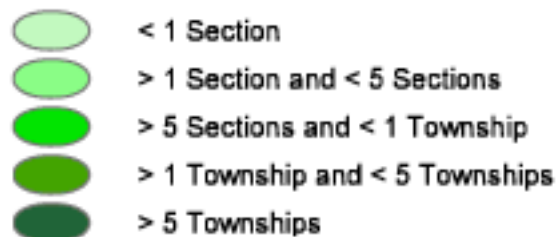
**Source:** National Atlas of the United States, Federal and Indian Lands theme and Hydrologic Unit Boundaries theme: <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/atlasftp.html>.

**Comments:** Average surface parcel size may present opportunities for management. For example, larger parcel size may present us with greater management flexibility. In areas where BLM manages small parcels, the need for partnerships with neighboring landowners may be critical to accomplishing management objectives.

## BLM Surface Parcel Size



Mean BLM Surface Parcel Size



1:15,000,000

[NEXT SECTION >>](#)

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)